

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
USMISSION BERLIN UNN  
AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN WRITERS' CONGRESS

1. SUMMARY. AFTER SEVERAL POSTPONEMENTS AND A YEAR LATE, NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF WRITERS WAS FINALLY HELD MAY 26-27. FONMIN MACOVESCU WASELECTED PRESIDENT, ALTHOUGH WE ARE TOLD BY DEPFONMIN PACOSTE THAT HE WILL REMAIN AT MFA. BUREAU OF WRITERS' UNION IS REORGANIZED, BUT ITS COMPOSITION APPEARS TO BE SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT OVER OLD ONE, IN TERMS OF "LIBERAL" REPRESENTATION. WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS THAT SOME HEATED DEBATES TOOK PLACE, BUT PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, AS USUAL, REFLECT LITTLE OR NOTHING OF THIS. IN FACT TELEGRAM ADDRESSED TO CEAUSESCU IS EVEN MORE SLAVISH IN PRAISING HIM THAN USUAL, PROVING ONCE AGAIN THAT ROMANIAN INTELLECTUALS AS A GROUP RE-

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MAIN, AT LEAST IN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS, SOME OF MOST DOCILE AND HYPOCRITICAL IN EASTERN EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

2. ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED FOR APRIL 20, THEN POSTPONED TO THE 26TH, WRITERS' UNION CONGRESS FINALLY WAS HELD MAY 26-27 IN BUCHAREST, A YEAR LATE, ACCORDING TO UNION

STATUTES. WE ARE TOLD THAT APPROXIMATELY 800 OF THE 1,200 MEMBERS PARTICIPATED AT THE SESSION. WRITERS' UNION (WU) COUNCIL (97 MEMBERS) ELECTED A NEW 27-PERSON BUREAU, HEADED BY FONMIN MACOVESCU WHO REPLACES FORMER CHAIRMAN VIRGIL TEODORESCU. LATTER REMAINS A GNA VICE PRESIDENT, BUT IS NO LONGER EVEN IN WU BUREAU. MACOVESCU'S ELECTION HAD BEEN RUMORED FOR MONTHS, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF OTHER HALF OF RUMOR, I.E. HIS DEPARTURE FROM MFA, WILL ALSO SOON BE AFFECTED. DEPFONMIN PACOSTE TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT MACOVESCU WILL IN FACT REMAIN AS FONMIN AND MACOVESCU HIMSELF CALLS THE JOB AN ADDED DUTY. NUMBER OF VICE PRESIDENTS IS INCREASED TO SIX WITH ETHNIC GERMAN AUTHOR FRANZ STORCH JOINING HIS HUNGARIAN COLLEAGUE SUTO ANDRAS AS MINORITY LANGUAGE REPRESENTATIVES. DUMITRU RADU POPESCU, THE TALENTED WRITER FROM CLUJ, IS ALSO RAISED TO A VP. NUMBER OF SECRETARIES IS CUT TO TWO, DOMOKOS GEZA, EDITOR OF HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE PUBLISHING HOUSE "KRITERION", AND ION HOBANA, A HOLD-OVER.

3. COMPOSITION OF REST OF BUREAU APPEARS TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE LIBERAL (DEFINED AS THOSE WHO MAY NOT LIKE THE SYSTEM, BUT ARE WILLING TO WORK WITHIN IT FOR MODERATE CHANGE) THAN PREVIOUSLY WITH ADDITION OF SUCH WRITERS AS MIRCEA MALITA, LAJOS LETAY, AND CONSTANTIN TOIU, AS WELL AS REELECTION OF BOGZA, CROHMALNICEANU, JEBELEANU, AND STANESCU. MOST SYMBOLIC DEPARTURE FROM BUREAU IS THAT OF STALINIST ERA POET, MIHAI BENIUC. INTERESTINGLY, TWO OF MOST CONTROVERSIAL WU MEMBERS, EUGEN BARBU AND ADRIAN PAUNESCU, ARE NEITHER IN BUREAU LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOR SPOKE AT CONGRESS. (BARBU DID NOT EVEN ATTEND APPARENTLY.) IN FACT WE HAVE HEARD THAT BOTH WERE RECENTLY CRITICIZED, TOGETHER WITH MARIN PREDA AND MIHNEA GHEORGHIU, FOR THEIR LIFE STYLE AND CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION.

4. EARLIER PREPARATORY MEETING OF BUCHAREST CHAPTER HELD IN APRIL APPARENTLY FEATURED SOME RATHER STORMY SESSION SON SUCH SUBJECTS AS EXPULSION OF DISSIDENT AUTHOR PAUL GOMA WITHOUT REGARD FOR FORMALITIES, DEFENSE OF ION NEGOITESCU, ORIGINALLY SYMPATHETIC WITH GOMA'S OBJECTIVES, BUT WHO LATER PARTIALLY RECENTED UNDER PRESSURE (SEE BUCHAREST 2723), AND ATTACKS AND COUNTER-ATTACKS INVOLVING PREDA, PAUNESCU AND BARBU. IT IS LIKELY THAT THIS WAS REASON FOR POSTPONEMENT OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE UNTIL THINGS QUIETED DOWN SOMEWHAT.

5. CONGRESS HAS CHANGED WU STATUTES AGAIN, BUT NATURE

OF CHANGES ARE STILL NOT KNOWN. SOME OF RUMORED WORSE EXPECTATIONS, E.G. THAT WU BUREAU WOULD INCLUDE ONLY GNA OR CC MEMBERS, OBVIOUSLY DID NOT TAKE PLACE. THE VALIDITY OF OTHERS, E.G. THAT LITERARY FUND MAY SOON BE DISSOLVED IN ORDER FAYCE NON-PRODUCTIVE AUTHORS TO FIND ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF INCOME AND "INSPIRATION" THROUGH MANUAL LABOR, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IN ANY CASE NEW WOULD-BE MEMBERS ARE NOW TO BE EXPECTED TO HOLD JOBS AND NOT BE JUST WRITERS.

6. CEAUSESCU'S SPEECH (SCINTEIA, MAY27) CONTAINED STANDARD CALLS FOR ART AS REFLECTION OF "SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM" AND AS INSTRUMENT IN CREATION OF "NEW MAN". HE ALSO SPOKE OF A NEW SYSTEM OF SELF-CENSORSHIP WITHIN WRITERS' UNION RATHER THAN ONE IMPOSED FROM OUTSIDE. (COMMENT: THIS MAY BE LINKED TO RCP PARTY SECRETARY STEFAN ANDREI'S RECENT REMARK TO AMBASSADOR THAT GOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVESTIGATING VARIOUS METHODS TO PREVENT WRITERS' COMPLAINTS THAT THEIR WORKS FREQUENTLY GZR BOGGED DOWN IN UNNECESSARY BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS INVOLVING CENSORSHIP.) CEAUSESCU CALLED ON CITIZENS TO AVOID SEEKING "THE EASY LIFE" AT PRICE OF BETRAYING OR SLANDERING ONE'S OWN COUNTRY AND NOTED EXISTENCE OF DIFFERENT CONCEPTIONS OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS. GOR CONSIDERS TRUE DEMOCRACY INCOMPATIBLE WITH GRAVE ECONOMIC SOCIAL AND POLITICAL INEQUITIES AND NATIONAL AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. LETTER ADDRESSED BY CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT PRAISED HIS "PARENTAL CARE" FOR NATION AND THE "WISE, BOLD AND CLAIRVOYANT LEADERSHIP" OF "OUR ESTEEMED AND BELOVED LEADER."

7. COMMENT. COMPOSITION OF NEW WU BUREAU SEEMS TO REFLECT THE SOMEWHAT LESS RESTRICTIVE APPROACH TO CULTURAL AFFAIRS TAKEN BY CURRENT RCP PROPAGANDA SECRETARY BURTICA IN CONTRAST TO HIS PREDECESSOR, DUMITRU POPESCU. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HEARD SOME REPORTS OF DISCONTENT EXPRESSED AT CONGRESS, PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, AS USUAL, SHOW NO INDICATION OF THIS. IN AFTERMATH OF DETENTION OF GOMA AND HISTORIAN VLAD GEORGESCU, AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT RELEASE, EVENTS WHICH HAVE DEEPLY AFFECTED ROMANIAN INTELLECTUAL LIFE, WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THESE ISSUES WERE NOT RAISED IN SOME WAY. WE HOPE TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION ON THESE NON-PUBLIC ASPECTS IN NEAR FUTURE.

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## Message Attributes

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